AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 1 with:

Operation of the magnetic actuator 100 is now described with reference to FIGS. 14, 15 and 16A-16C. FIG. 15 shows a state corresponding to FIG. 16C in which contacts 210 of a circuit breaker 200 are in an open position. In this state, the armature 2 is held at a second position 9 adjacent to a lower yoke section 1b of the first yoke 1 by ~~fluxes Φ_{PM1}~~ flux Φ_{PM2} generated by the permanent magnets 6c shown in FIG. 14. To switch the circuit breaker 200 from the open position of the contacts 210 to a closed contact position, the coil 3a is reversely excited so that magnetic fields oriented in directions opposite to arrows shown in FIG. 16B are created. Consequently, the sum of magnetic attractive forces exerted by ~~fluxes~~ flux $\Phi_{coil1-2}$ produced by the coil 3a and ~~fluxes Φ_{PM1}~~ flux Φ_{PM2} produced by the permanent magnets 6c decreases and the armature 2 ~~is caused to move~~ moves from the second position 9 to the first position 8 over a specific stroke. When switching the circuit breaker 200 from the closed contact position shown in FIG. 16A to the open contact position shown in FIG. 16C by moving the armature 2 downward, the exciting coil 3a is excited to generate ~~fluxes~~ flux $\Phi_{coil1-1}$. The ~~fluxes~~ flux $\Phi_{coil1-1}$ should be just large enough to cancel ~~out~~ the attractive force exerted by the ~~fluxes~~ flux Φ_{PM1} produced by the permanent magnets 6c for holding the armature 2 at the first position 8 adjacent to the upper yoke section 1a. As the attractive force exerted by the ~~fluxes~~ flux Φ_{PM1} is canceled ~~out~~ in this fashion, the spring 12 provided between the upper yoke section 1a and the armature 2 causes the armature 2 to move downward toward the second position 9 adjacent to the lower yoke section 1b.